

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01 SP-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7256

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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SUBJECT: EC DEVELOPMENT MINISTERS MEETING - JULY 16

REF: A) BONN 11420 B) EC BRUSSELS 5318

1. SUPPLEMENTING REFTELS, SOURCES IN THE UK PERM
DEL AND IN THE EC COMMISSION HAVE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL
BACKGROUND TO DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE EC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING JULY 16.

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2. AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES: COUNCIL ACCEPT-

ANCE OF THE RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF GRANTING COMMUNITY FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES WHILE GIVING PRIORITY TO THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE STATES IS SEEN AS A POSITIVE FIRST STEP--" THE MAJORITY OF THE BATTLE IS YET TO COME". THUS, OUR SOURCES SHARE THE GERMAN ASSESSMENT TO SOME EXTENT BUT ARE MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS. THE FRENCH, FOR THEIR PART, WERE AT PAINS TO PORTRAY THE RESOLUTION AS ONLY CONFIRMING EXISTING PRACTICE (SEE REF B). TARGET FIGURES FOR AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES WERE DISCUSSED--UK PERM REP SOURCE INDICATED A RANGE OF .750 TO 1.0 BILLION UA OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD GIVEN A TOTAL EDF OF 3.0 BILLION UA--AS OPPOSED TO THE FIGURES GIVEN IN REF A. IN ANY CASE, THIS DISCUSSION WAS EXTREMELY PRELIMINARY AND THE ACTUAL BUDGETING OF COMMUNITY AID TO THE NON-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES IS STILL FAR IN THE FUTURE.

3. FOOD AID: GENERAL DISCUSSION OF EC FOOD AID PLANS BY THE COUNCIL PRODUCED AGREEMENT TO AT LEAST CONTINUE THE PROGRAM AT PRESENT LEVELS, WHICH A COMMISSION SOURCE FEELS IS SOMETHING OF A VICTORY IN ITSELF IN VIEW OF EARLIER REPORTS OF OPPOSITION AMONG CERTAIN MEMBER STATES (UK, DANES). C CONTRARY TO PARA 3, REFTTEL A, THE UK DID NOT OPPOSE FOOD AID PER SE BUT JOINED WITH DENMARK, IRELAND AND TO SOME EXTENT GERMANY IN OPPOSING THE "UNREASONABLE" AND "OVERLY AMBITIOUS" COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, AN EC SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED DIVERSIFICATION OF "THE FOOD BASKET" AND AGREED TO REVIEW ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM'S MANAGEMENT.

4. HARMONIZATION AND COORDINATION OF EC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: COMMISSION SOURCES CHARACTERIZED THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON THIS ISSUE AS PROVIDING A LIMITED "NEW ORIENTATION" IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY WILL ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE MEMBER STATES' POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE DEVELOPMENT FIELD BUT CAUTIONED THAT IT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A VERY PRELIMINARY STEP. THE RESOLUTION ITSELF IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOO FULL OF QUALIFYING PHRASEOLOGY TO PERMIT US NOW TO PREDICT, WITH AN ACCEPTABLE DEGREE OF CERTAINTY, WHAT ACTUAL HARMONIZATION WILL RESULT. GREENWALD

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